



# *Milwaukee County*

Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas, 18<sup>th</sup> District

For Immediate Release January 12, 2010  
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## **SUPERVISOR THOMAS RESPONSE TO STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS**

**Milwaukee, WI** – Milwaukee County Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas released the following statement in response to the County Executive's 2010 State of the County address:

“County Executive Scott Walker continues to promote the same failed policy of cutting the work force, borrowing excessively, and dismantling County services as solutions to Milwaukee County's structural deficit. The County Executive's neglectful leadership has reached its limits. These are huge burdens that can no longer be ignored by the administration. Parks deferred maintenance has reached \$200 million. Projections from Scott Walker's own administration reveal a \$48 million budget hole for 2011. We must be proactive in addressing these challenges, which will not be resolved by limiting services including public safety. Don't forget that Courts and Sheriff's Deputies are already subject to eight "floater" furlough days for 2010, along with all other County workers.

“With events like today's State of the County Speech, Scott Walker talks a good game about fixing County finances, but he won't endorse the steps necessary to actually do it. To stabilize the budget, eliminate debt and bolster essential services, we must diversify our revenue stream by implementing a one-cent sales tax – as approved by Milwaukee County voters – to support parks, transit, and emergency medical services and lower property taxes.

“The fundamental problems that have created persistent and growing structural deficits at Milwaukee County will not magically disappear. The stimulus funds and other federal dollars that he has relied upon for his “Milwaukee County Works” program will not be available forever. The focus in 2010 must include an effective strategic plan. We have started developing that plan at the County Board level, and we are engaging civic and business leaders in developing that approach.”

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